

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter and are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 29-32, 34, 39 and 42-52 have been rejected.

Claims 27, 29-32, 34, 39 and 42-52 are kept unchanged.

Claims 28, 33, 35-38, 40 and 41 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 28, 33, 35-38, 40 and 41 have been canceled.

New claims 53 and 54 have been filed

Claims 27, 29-32, 34, 39 and 42-54 are pending in the application.

The elected species made in the previous amendments is readable on new claims 53 and 54.

Claims 27, 29-32, 34, 39 and 42-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 § (a) as being unpatentable over Guerin et al. U.S. Patent 6,036,887 in view of Kuroda et al., U.S. Patent 4,748,196.

The instant invention relates to granules obtained by a two step-process involving a water-soluble or a water-dispersible compound. That compound is either compound i) to iv) according to claim 27.

Compound i) is a copolymer obtained from:

monomer (I) which is an acid or anhydride, and

monomer (III) which is a polyoxyalkylenated ester of an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, or

monomer (II') of formula $R^2R^2C=CH_2$ wherein R^2 has the definition of claim 27.

Monomer (III) and (II') present an hydrophobic moiety (R^2 in monomer (II')), polyoxyalkylenated moiety in monomer (III).

Compounds (ii) to (iv) present hydrophobic hydrocarbon grafts.

Guerin teaches granules having a water-soluble polyelectrolyte polymer. Said polymer is describes in column 4 of the Guerin patent.

That reference describes:

- Homopolymers obtained from monomers having the formula of column 4. That formula does not describe nor suggest he monomers (II') and (III). Therefore, the compounds of the reference are not generic to those of the invention.
- Copolymers obtained from the above monomers and other monomers such as vinyl alcohols, vinyl amides, alkylvinyl ether, and vinyl styrene. Again, monomers (III) and (II') are not part of those other monomers. Therefore, the compounds of the reference are not generic to those of the invention.
- Polypeptidic polymers derived from the polycondensation of aminoacids.

The reference is mute about grafting polymers. Therefore it is not generic to compounds (ii) to (iv).

Kuroda teaches copolymers of maleic anhydride and olefin monomers water repellent compositions. The compositions are paraffin emulsions to be applied onto a substrate to be rendered water repellent. Upon drying the substrate, the emulsion leaves the paraffin which provides a durable water repellent surface.

Kuroda is mute about grafts. Therefore one of ordinary skill in the art could not retrieve the invention for compounds (ii) to (iv) by simply combining the teachings of Guerin and Kuroda.

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Kuroda is mute about monomers (III). Therefore one of ordinary skill in the art could not retrieve the invention for compound (i) obtained from monomers (I) and (III) simply by combining the teachings of Guerin and Kuroda.

Kuroda is also mute on re-dispersing dried emulsions. Kuroda teaches away from preparing water re-dispersible granules because Kuroda focuses on water-repellence.

Therefore one of ordinary skill in the art would not have motivated to combine the teachings of Guerin and Kuroda and could not have retrieved the claimed invention.

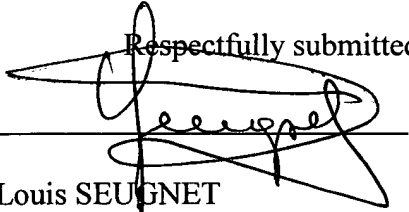
For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 27, 29-32, 34, 39 and 42-52 under 35 U.S.C. 103 § (a) as being unpatentable over Guerin et al. U.S. Patent 6,036,887 in view of Kuroda et al., U.S. Patent 4,748,196.

In view of the preceding remarks, it is asserted that the patent application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any question concerning these remarks that would further advance prosecution of the claims to allowance, the examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned agent at (609) 860-4180. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Rhodia Inc.
259 Prospect Plains Road
CN7500
Cranbury, NJ 08512

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Respectfully submitted,
By 
Jean-Louis SEUGNET
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR §
10.9(b) enclosed.
Tel : (609) 860-4180
Fax: (609) 860-0503